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LETTER DATED 12 APRIL 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CAMEROON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward herewith the Statement of the African Group on the situation in Rwanda and Burundi.

I shall be grateful if you could have the statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Pascal BILOA TANG
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cameroon
to the United Nations
Chairman of the African Group

Annex

Statement of the African Group on the situation in Rwanda and Burundi

The African Group at the United Nations met today in a Special Session to review developments in Rwanda and Burundi, following the tragic death of both Presidents Juvenal HABYARIMANA and Cyprien NTARYAMIRA. The Permanent Representatives of Rwanda and Burundi to the United Nations briefed the Group on the latest developments in their respective countries. In this context, the Permanent Representative of Rwanda informed the Group of the establishment of an interim government. The Group was further briefed on the consultations taking place at the level of the Security Council.

Having discussed the reports made, the African Group expressed its concern over the gravity of the situation in both countries, and particularly in Rwanda where thousands of lives were lost.

On the initiatives of some countries to evacuate their nationals, the Group underlined that the security of the Rwandese people and other foreigners should equally be a matter of concern for the international community.

In its consideration of the urgent need of restoring peace, stability and security in Rwanda and Burundi respectively, the African Group,

(i) Calls for an immediate cease-fire, a return to positions held by parties before the present hostilities and an end to the mindless violence which is engulfing Rwanda;

(ii) Urges the Security Council to take urgent actions to help protect the lives and property of civilians in Rwanda, and to consider expanding the size and mandate of UNAMIR in Rwanda;

(iii) Reiterates the importance of the full implementation of the Arusha Peace Agreement;

(iv) Emphasizes the readiness of the OAU to cooperate with the United Nations in the implementation of the said Agreement;

(v) Strongly appeals to the international community to increase humanitarian assistance commensurate with the scale of the human tragedy, in Rwanda and Burundi.

New York, 11 April 1994